

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated June 2, 2003. Claims 1 to 9, 43 to 51, 67 and 68 remain in the application, with Claims 10 to 42 and 52 to 66 having been canceled, and Claims 1, 4, 7, 43 to 49, 67 and 68 having been amended. Claims 1, 4, 7, 43, 45, 47, 49 and 67 are the independent claims herein. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Applicant respectfully requests approval of the accompanying "Replacement Sheet" for Figures 5 and 6 of the drawings. The Replacement Sheet incorporates changes in Figure 6 to correct the spelling of the word "BRIGTH" to read "BRIGHT" as shown in the enclosed marked-up copy of the original drawing sheet.

Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 10 to 15, 37 to 50, 52, 53 and 61 to 68 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 5,878,401 (Joseph), Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 10 to 15, 22 to 50 and 52 to 68 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over U.S. Patent No. 6,119,099 (Walker), Claims 16 to 36 and 54 to 60 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,041,310 (Green), and Claims 3, 6, 9 and 51 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Walker. Without conceding the propriety of the rejections, the rejections of Claims 16 to 36 and 54 to 60 over Green are believed to be obviated by the cancellation of Claims 10 to 42 and 54 to 66. As for the remaining rejections, reconsideration and withdrawal thereof are respectfully requested.

The present invention concerns providing pay services (such as printing services) over a network. According to one aspect of the invention, an upper limit of an amount designated by a user to be paid for a designated pay service is detected, and as a result, information that represents a pay service other than the designated pay service which

can be provided within the upper limit of the amount to be paid. Thus, according to this aspect, a user can select any of the designated pay service, a different pay service, or both. In a related aspect, a plurality of additional services that can be provided within the upper limit of the charge are determined, and information of the plurality of additional services are output so that the user can be provided with both a designated basic service and at least one of the plurality of additional services as selected by the user.

With specific reference to the claims, amended independent Claim 1 is a method of providing pay services over a network, comprising the steps of detecting a request for a designated pay service, detecting an upper limit of an amount designated by a user to be paid for the designated pay service, and outputting information that represents a pay service other than the designated pay service which can be provided within the upper limit of the amount to be paid.

Amended independent Claims 4, 7 and 49 are apparatus, memory medium, and apparatus (written in non-means-plus-function form) claims, respectively, that substantially correspond to Claim 1.

The applied art is not seen to disclose or to suggest the features of independent Claims 1, 4, 7 and 49. In particular, the applied art is not seen to disclose or to suggest at least the feature of detecting an upper limit of an amount designated by a user to be paid for a designated pay service, and outputting information that represents a pay service other than the designated pay service which can be provided within the upper limit of the amount to be paid.

Joseph merely discloses that a user inputs a shoe type and price range to search for inventoried shoes. If the input shoe type is not in stock, a list of alternative

shoes that fall within the same class, related class, and price range are displayed. (See column 6, lines 4 to 23.) However, Joseph's shoe is not a pay service to be provided over a network, but rather, is an article of manufacture to be purchased at a store. Therefore, Joseph is not seen to disclose or to suggest at least the feature of detecting an upper limit of an amount designated by a user to be paid for a designated pay service, and outputting information that represents a pay service other than the designated pay service which can be provided within the upper limit of the amount to be paid. Accordingly, independent Claims 1, 4, 7 and 49 are not believed to be anticipated by Joseph.

Walker is merely seen to disclose determining an upsell (i.e., an upgrade) in a purchase of an item. If a user wants to add the upsell to their purchase, the total purchase price is adjusted accordingly. (See column 6, line 66 to column 7, line 34.) However, Walker is not seen to disclose or to suggest at least the feature of detecting an upper limit of an amount designated by a user to be paid for a designated pay service, and outputting information that represents a pay service other than the designated pay service which can be provided within the upper limit of the amount to be paid. Accordingly, Claims 1, 4, 7 and 49 are not believed to be anticipated by, nor would they have been obvious over, Walker.

Green, while not applied against the present claims, is merely seen to disclose that user inputs criteria, including a price range, to search for automobiles in a dealers inventory. However, Green is not seen to disclose or to suggest the foregoing features of Claims 1, 4, 7 and 49.

In another aspect of the invention along similar lines to the foregoing, amended independent Claim 43 is a service providing, comprising detecting means for

detecting a basic service requested by a user and an upper limit of a charge entered by the user for provision of services, determining means for determining a plurality of additional services that can be provided within the upper limit of the charge, output means for outputting information of the plurality of additional services determined by the determining means, and providing means for providing the user with the basic service and at least one of the plurality of additional services as selected by the user.

Amended independent Claims 45, 47 and 67 are method, computer-readable medium, and apparatus (written in non-means-plus-function form) claims, respectively, that substantially correspond to Claim 43.

The applied art is not seen to disclose or to suggest the features of independent Claims 43, 45, 47 and 67. In particular, the applied art is not seen to disclose or to suggest at least the feature of determining a plurality of additional services that can be provided within an upper limit of a charge entered by a user, outputting information of the determined plurality of additional services, and providing the user with a basic service and at least one of the plurality of additional services as selected by the user.

As discussed above, Joseph merely discloses displaying alternative shoes that fall within the same class, related class and price range. However, Joseph is not seen to disclose or to suggest anything with regard to determining a plurality of additional services that can be provided within an upper limit of a charge entered by a user, outputting information of the determined plurality of additional services, and providing the user with a basic service and at least one of the plurality of additional services as selected by the user. Accordingly, Claims 43, 45, 47 and 67 are not believed to be anticipated by Joseph.

Walker merely searches for upgrades that can be purchased for an additional price. However, Walker is not seen to disclose or to suggest at least the feature of determining a plurality of additional services that can be provided within an upper limit of a charge entered by a user, outputting information of the determined plurality of additional services, and providing the user with a basic service and at least one of the plurality of additional services as selected by the user. Accordingly, Claims 43, 45, 47 and 67 are not believed to be anticipated by, nor would they have been obvious over, Walker.

Green, while not having been applied against Claims 43, 45, 47 and 49, is not seen to add anything to overcome the deficiencies of Joseph and Walker and in particular, is not seen to disclose or to suggest at least the feature of determining a plurality of additional services that can be provided within an upper limit of a charge entered by a user, outputting information of the determined plurality of additional services, and providing the user with a basic service and at least one of the plurality of additional services as selected by the user.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa,
California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to
our below-listed address.

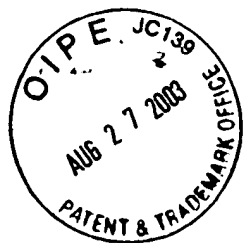
Respectfully submitted,


Attorney for Applicant

Registration No. 42,746

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-2200
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200

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SEP 03 2003
GROUP 3600

FIG. 5

UPPER LIMIT YEN

FIG. 6

YOU CAN UTILIZE THE OUTPUT MODES LISTED BELOW WITHIN
YOUR BUDGET OF 400 YEN.

CLICK ANY MODE NUMBER YOU LIKE.

BRIGHT

[1] HAVE A *BRIGHT* COLOR OUTPUT PRINTED ON GLOSSY PAPER.

[2] HOW ABOUT THE BOUND STYLE FOR A BOOKLET-LIKE OUTPUT. (MONOCHROME)

[3] WANT TO HAVE AN OUTPUT BASED ON BASIC SET VALUES.

HINT :
PAY 100 MORE YEN, AND YOU CAN
DESIGNATE THE GLOSSY PAPER AND BOUND STYLE.